



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

January 2024

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship Service
www.wpcspi.org

FAITH FORMATION:

9:45 a.m. Nursery
Children Birth – Age 3

10:15 a.m. Sunday School
following Children’s Sermon
Children Pre-K - Grade 5
Confirmation Prep Grade 6-7

11:15 a.m. Confirmation Grade 8
Adult Education Forum

5:00 p.m. Youth Group

January 7

BAPTISM OF THE LORD ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Genesis 1:1-5; Mark 1:4-11
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
The Embrace of Water

January 14

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18; Mark 1:43-51
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Intricately Woven

January 21

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20
The Rev. Christian K. Choi
Bitter-Sweet

January 28

ANNUAL MEETING & EGGTASTIC BREAKFAST FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Isaiah 40; Mark 1:29-39
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Run and Not Be Weary

Sermon manuscripts are located in the West Narthex and online at www.wpcspi.org

NEW OFFICER ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

On Sunday, January 7, our newly elected Church Officers will be ordained and installed during the 10:00 a.m. service of worship. The following persons were elected at the Congregational Meeting on October 15, 2023. Their bios can soon be found on the church website (www.wpcspi.org) under Church Leadership.



SESSION CLASS OF 2026

John Cross, Tara Fritsch, Rachael Hickman, David Jenkins, Dr. Vena Long, Julie Robbs, Greg Swanson, and Brinton Wilkey. **Youth Elder** – Kristianna Eastvold

BOARD OF DEACONS CLASS OF 2026

Julie Barton, Greg Boutelle, Kyle Duffy, Deb Fritsch, Joyce King, Dr. Todd Lafrenz, Kate Morthland, and Bernie Wiseman. **Deacon Class of 2025:** Bill Schlosser who is serving in the position held by Keith Hamilton.

CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT AND JANUARY BOARD MEETING DATES

On Saturday, January 6, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon, Elders and Deacons will gather for the Annual Church Officer Retreat. The Board of Deacons will meet Wednesday, January 10 and Session will meet Wednesday, January 17.

THANK YOU TO CHURCH OFFICERS CLASS OF 2023

We are grateful to the following elders and deacons who have served our congregation faithfully:

SESSION: Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Mal Hildebrand, Robyn Hovey, Becky Huston, James Kontio, Lynn McMenammin, Mary Ray, Krista Steller, and Will Hovey (Youth)

BOARD OF DEACONS: Erin Ekstedt, Terry Haynor, Mary King, Dr. Richard Leary, Julie Pittman McDonough, Bruce Strom, Bob Stuart, Jess Weitzel, and Kristianna Eastvold (Youth) and Keith Hamilton (Class of 2025)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

ANNUAL MEETING

8:30 – 9:45 A.M. EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Members are invited to an egg-tastic breakfast that will be served by youth attending the 2024 Youth Mission Trip. Come support the Mission and be well-nourished for the work of the church at the annual meeting following worship!

10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

11:00 – 11:30 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

2023 ANNUAL REPORTS from the Session and Deacon Committee chairs are due **Thursday, January 11, 2024 by noon**. Please submit your reports to jalt@wpcpi.org. They will be included in the 2023 Annual Report.

FROM THE PASTOR by Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

On a Tuesday evening in late November, Christy and Karl Pound hosted a Legacy of Faith Endowment Planned Giving Reception at their home. About 30 members (who have included Westminster in their will or are considering this possibility) gathered to enjoy fellowship, hear brief presentations by Randy Germeraad, Dr. Diane Rutledge, & Jeff Wilday, partake in a lovely buffet prepared by Pat Hymans, and listen to a musical presentation by Jay Kennerly and Dale Rogers. I had asked Dale and Jay to present Moon River for this occasion. Moon River is a love song of sorts; however, it is foremost a song about an unexpected friendship and trust: two friends off to see the world and crossing a mile-wide river in style. The lyrics are a reference to Huckleberry Finn and his adventures on the Mississippi River with Jim, an enslaved black man. The raft is a place where Huck and Jim find refuge in each other away from the restraints and expectations of society.



The raft can also be a metaphor for the refuge we find on our spiritual journeys and in this faith community (which was born out of our founders' conviction that all are beloved children of God, created free, and worthy of respect) and the unexpected friendships we discover when we have the courage to move beyond the prejudices and restraints of society today. How grateful we are for the mile-wide river we traverse together at Westminster and for the unexpected, intergenerational friendships we celebrate on this raft where we find safety, share honesty, and grow spiritually. On Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord and gather within the ark of our sanctuary to renew our baptismal covenant and to ordain newly elected church officers. We do so with gratitude and joy!

SAFETY TEAM MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 AT 9:15 A.M.

The Safety Team will meet Sunday, January 28 at 9:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. The Safety Team was introduced in May of 2018 under the leadership of retired FBI agent, John Stafford. We are grateful for the team which serves faithfully and hope to add new members in 2024. Those who are interested are invited to contact John Stafford (217 299-5627) and attend the meeting.

The Safety Team's mission statement is to support a safe and secure environment for worship where all are welcome. The team's primary role is to maintain a heightened awareness of potential risks during worship, and to take appropriate steps to minimize the risk to the congregation. The team is also prepared to respond to severe weather, fire, and medical emergencies.

CHURCH LIFE APP AVAILABLE

Westminster uses church management software called ACS. The office maintains financial and member record information in this cloud-based software. Since it is web-based, church members can download a smart phone app called Church Life to see church member and calendar information. By following setup instructions, you will be able to set a password for yourself and view church information on your smart phone.

Those who are interested in this helpful tool may contact Communications Coordinator, Krista Steller, at (ksteller@wpcspi.org). She will assist in setting up your account.



MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS TAKE DOWN will be Wednesday, January 3 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Many thanks to those who assisted in decorating the church. We have enjoyed these adornments through the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Come help store things away for another year.

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR rehearsals resume on Thursday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. Assistance is needed to clear out last semester's music in the choir folders, load music for the spring and put the music away on Wednesday, January 10 at 1:00 p.m. If you can help, let Dale know.



THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR will resume rehearsals in the new year on Wednesday, January 10 at 5:00 p.m.

CHURCH MICE, a musical experience for infants through age four will begin its new year on Saturday, January 13 at 11:00 a.m.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM:

ROAD TO SELMA ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

On Sunday, January 14 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall, our youth will report on their 2023 Mission Trip to Selma, Alabama.



THE REGULATION OF GUNS IN USA
JANUARY 21, FEBRUARY 4, 11

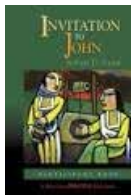
This adult education forum will provide an overview of the regulatory oversight of guns and its societal and political implications. The class will also conclude with a summary of the PC(USA) position on gun control measures.



The forum will be led by Kate and Michael Morthland, mom and dad to Walter. Kate is a Policy Director and Lobbyist for the Illinois Life and Health Insurance Council. Michael is a Senior Vice President at Mercury's Illinois office where he specializes in government and public affairs. Both earned a Juris Doctorate from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

DR. KIEFFER'S DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study resumes on Thursday, January 11, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. We will begin the Short-term Disciple Studies: **Invitation to John**. New Members are welcome!



APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, January 23 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss **Nine Black Robes: Inside the Supreme Court's Drive to the Right and Historic Consequences** by Joan Biskupic. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary Ray

JR. HIGH CONFIRMATION JANUARY SCHEDULE

GRADES 6-7 CONFIRMATION PREP meets during worship (10:15 – 11:00 a.m.) on Sundays, January 7 (Promised Land), January 21 (Judges and Ruth), and January 28 (King Saul).

GRADE 8 CONFIRMATION meets following worship (11:15 a.m. – 12 noon) on Sundays, January 7 (Martin Luther Protests), January 21 (John Calvin Reforms), and January 28 (Congregational Meeting). **Mentors are invited to attend class** with their confirmand: Will Affrunti/Dave Leonatti, Juliett Boutelle/Rev. Jerry Boutelle, Juliana Eastvold/Val Leonatti, and Ned Moore/Joe Fierstos.

SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

Thank you to Becky and Todd Huston for hosting the Youth Christmas Party.



Senior High youth continue to meet two Sunday evenings each month. Eighth graders (especially those attending the 2024 mission trip) are invited to participate as we build community in preparation for our mission adventure. Leaders: Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, and Mary Ray

ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 youth will meet to enjoy games, dinner, and plan for the Adult Education Presentation on the 2023 Mission Trip to Selma, AL. The meal will be prepared by Katie and Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold.

YOUTH CO-HOST CAP SORTING PARTY

ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 5:00–7:00 P.M. Senior High Youth will collaborate with the Earth Care Team and host a Cap Sorting Party. Will Hovey will lead the effort to recycle 300 lbs. of bottle caps left over from his Eagle Scout Project. Upon receipt of the caps, Green Tree Plastics will provide a bench made from recycled materials through the ABC Promise Partnership Program. All are encouraged to join us in the fun of sorting followed by a delicious meal prepared by Nichole Magalis.

EGGTASTIC BREAKFAST MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

All youth attending the 2024 Mission Trip are expected to work the sixth annual Egg-tastic breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, January 28.

Plan to arrive by 8:15 a.m. and work through the morning! The Mission participants will assist in serving a delicious Egg-tastic Breakfast prepared by Pat Hymans before worship at 10:00 a.m. Special thank you to Mary Jo and David Jenkins for their donation to offset the cost of the sausage for this year's Egg-tastic breakfast.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz

BRIDGES MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP RESUMES JANUARY 10

Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Tower Classroom as we continue the theme "Created in God's Image."



During December, along with improving their Bible skills, the Bridges children created a Christmas Storyboard which they presented to the Nursery children on a Sunday morning.

Bridges is so grateful to our partner, Miss Pat Roller, who brings so much joy and warmth to our gatherings. We are also thankful to all the families who bring their kiddos each week and allow us the chance to help guide their faith - and to learn from them as well. We are blessed!

NURSERY GUILD MINISTRY PARTNER MEETING, JANUARY 14

On Sunday, January 14 at 9:00 a.m. in Parish Hall, the Nursery Guild and Nursery Coordinators will meet for orientation to new and returning Nursery Guild members and to provide an opportunity for ministry partners to sign-up on a schedule of Sundays through winter and spring.

JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS ARE LECTIONARY BASED!

1/7/24 Awesome	Genesis 1:1-5
1/14/24 Voice in the Night	1 Samuel 3:1-10
1/21/24 Another Call	Mark 1:14-20
1/28/24 Praise God!	Psalm 111

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES EXPANDS IN JANUARY

We have been blessed with a very strong attendance in Sunday School. So strong, in fact, that we will expand our current class into two classes beginning Sunday, January 28! Our younger children, from grades Kindergarten through Grade 2 will continue in the Third Floor Chapel with Meleah Berkowitz and ministry partners, while children Grades 3 through 5 will meet with Aaron Berkowitz and ministry partners in the Third Floor Tower room. Because of this expansion, more ministry partners to teach Sunday School are needed. If you are interested, please contact Meleah or Aaron at berkowitz@wpcspi.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY PARTNER MEETING, JANUARY 21

On Sunday, January 21 at 9:00 a.m. in Parish Hall, Sunday School teachers will meet to prepare for the new, expanded Sunday School classes and to provide an opportunity for ministry partners to sign-up on a schedule of Sundays through winter and spring. New Sunday School teachers are welcome!

WESTMINSTER CO-OP PRESCHOOL



December is such a special month in the preschool. Each year, our families all share a holiday tradition from their home. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn about the differences and similarities in families and how different cultures celebrate the holidays. In the classroom, we had so much fun with activities with gingerbread men and comparing many different versions of the story. Our dramatic play center was a construction site, and in addition to all the fun building we did there, we did some real woodworking with help from several of our grandparents. We appreciate the effort of Coleman Moore, member and grandparent, who built this for the children. We had a delightful family holiday party in the Parish Hall with pizza, cookie decorating, crafts, and over 130 in attendance!

We'll be on winter break until school resumes on January 3. As we begin the new year, we'll be accepting applications for the 2024-25 school year. Current alumni and church members have early registration through February 29. Please spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested.

- Emily Rowley, Director

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER



Westminster is always beautiful; however, Advent at Westminster is spectacular, thanks to the labor of love from the team of elves directed by Dale Rogers.

Advent highlights include the PW Tea, the Advent Celebration, the youth group shopping extravaganza, Christmas Vespers, and Sunday School Processional.

Christmas Eve fell on the Fourth Sunday of Advent this year. Our children wowed us in the morning with the Christmas Pageant and the Service of Lessons and Carols did not disappoint. Between the two services, we welcomed 595 in-person for worship.

CHRISTMAS VESPERS AT WESTMINSTER



CHILDREN'S PROCESSIONAL, PAGEANT, AND SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS



PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

MISSION SUNDAY CELEBRATED FEBRUARY 4

On Sunday, February 4, mission will be highlighted. Thanks to all in the WPC members who contribute time, effort, donations, and expertise to the church's mission. A comprehensive list of the 2023 mission supported by Westminster will be presented on Sunday, February 4.



Below are highlights of 2023 mission distributions from the Endowment Fund and Operating Fund as well as the total given toward the Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build.

Westminster Presbyterian Church 2023 Mission Disbursements Highlights	Regional National International
From Betty Smith Mission:	\$15,000
Western Illinois Dreamers	\$1,750
2024 Refugee Ministry Family	\$13,250
Mission Grants Highlights:	\$43,600
Compass for Kids	\$2,500
Contact Ministries – Prom Fundraiser	\$1,500
Habitat for Humanity	\$10,000
Helping Hands	\$4,000
Helping the Homeless – Julie Benson	\$2,330
Illinois Presbyterian Home	\$1,500
Kemmerer Village	\$1,500
Motherland Gardens	\$1,000
The Outlet	\$7,000
Will Hovey Eagle Scout Project	\$770
Wooden It Be Helpful – Coleman Moore	\$1,500
Wooden It Be Lovely	\$7,000
YMCA – The Rise & Shine Initiative	\$1,500
Youth First – L.A. Youth Program	\$1,500
Steadfast Neighbor Mission Highlights:	\$39,682
Matching Grants	\$23,139
Service Week	\$4,898
Little Pantry	\$11,645
TOTAL ENDOWMENT HIGHLIGHTS:	\$98,282

Presbyterian Mission (GA, Synod, Presbytery)	\$17,000
PCUSA Per Capita	\$36,939
Youth Mission Trip	\$19,824
Contact Ministries	\$8,500
Helping Hands	\$4,000
Faith Coalition for the Common Good, etc.	\$768
TOTAL MISSION OPERATING FUND HIGHLIGHTS:	\$87,031

Total Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build:	\$151,935
Individual Donations	\$42,597
Grants and Organization Donations	\$49,693
In Kind Donations	\$59,645

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS GIVING

ADOPT-A-FAMILY: WPC members fulfilled **99 gift requests and wrapping paper/accessories for nine families** living in the Contact Ministries transitional shelter. Special thanks to Rachael Hickman who coordinated this gift giving tradition and to Jennie Alt for organizing all the requests.

KNIT 2 PURL 4: Our knitting group continues creating hand-made items and donating them to the community. K2P4 and other Westminster members again lovingly donated knitted goods to persons in need of warmth this winter. A total of 132 items were donated: 55 hats, 34 scarves, 41 gloves, and 2 pairs of socks were provided to Contact Ministries.



TOYS FOR TOTS: Thanks to those who responded generously, providing 20 gifts in 2023 for this children's program of the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) supports Racial/Ethnic leadership development, schools and colleges, and supply financial assistance to active and retired ministers having special circumstances of need. The total received in 2023 to date is **\$2,365**.

HUNGER MINISTRIES

HELPING HANDS: Thank you to the Swansons and Bryans for preparing the final meal at the old Helping Hands location on December 8.

SALVATION ARMY WARMING CENTER: Thank you to Pat Hymans, Mary King, Judy Prillaman, Sue Scaife, Krista Steller, Jeanne and Shelby VanGieson for preparing the final Salvation Army meal on December 27.



BEGINNING IN 2024 Westminster will prepare one meal on the fourth Wednesday of each month for Helping Hands at their new location (2200 Shale Avenue) which is the old Juvenile Justice Facility off Dirksen Parkway.

WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY: Thank you to all who stock Westminster's Little Pantry at Graham School. Please sign up on SignUp Genius. (<https://bit.ly/3C4s0vS>)

GIVE -A- MEAL -A- MONTH JANUARY MENU

Canned Spaghetti and meatballs, Canned Veggies and Fruit in 100% juice/water, instant pudding or jello. High-Demand Items: personal hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, diapers & wipes size 3 & up, granola / nutri-grain / breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap.

EARTH CARE NEWS

BOTTLE CAP SORTING PARTY AND DINNER –

On Sunday, January 21, 5:00–7:00 p.m. in Parish Hall members are invited to join the Earth Care Team and Westminster youth for dinner and a bottle cap sorting party. Many hands make light work.



JANUARY EARTH CARE TIP

Is your family considering a trip south to warm up this winter? Remember some modes of transportation are greener than others, consuming less fuel and producing less CO2: travel by rail is the most earth friendly, car travel (especially with several passengers) is less so, and jet travel is the least. If tight schedules require air travel, consider counter-balancing those emissions by donating to the Presbyterian Tree Fund through which our denomination supports reforestation and CO2 reduction.

- Dr. Peter Kieffer, Earth Care Team Chair

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION & FELLOWSHIP gathers every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Knitters will knit at home on January 2 and resume January 9 with a brown bag lunch. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets on Wednesday, January 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jeanne VanGieson (3928 Rocky Falls Rd, 62711). Judy Knox will lead the devotional by Jean-Pierre de Caussade entitled "The Present Moment" (pp. 200-206) from the book, Devotional Classics. Contact Christy Pound at (217-971-3082).

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets on Monday, January 8, 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Mary King will lead Lesson 5 "A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus" from the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters. Contact Eleanor VanDeventer (217-341-4032).

LYDIA CIRCLE meets on Tuesday, January 16 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library. Sandy Bellatti will host and lead Lesson 4 "Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus" from the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters. Contact Nancy Canady (217-899-9890).



Pic 1: Ruth and Naomi met on Dec 6. Pic 2: K2P4 Knitters hosted a Christmas Dessert get together on Dec 12. Pic 3: Lydia Circle hosted a Christmas luncheon on Dec 19. K2P4 and Lydia invited the staff as a show of appreciation.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST will be Thursday, January 11 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Harl Ray, Senior Project Manager for the Secretary of State's Department of Physical Services, will present a program on the ongoing construction at the Illinois State Capitol. Bud Green will provide breakfast. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

John Jaech celebrates 95 years on January 20.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz on the death of Aaron's grandmother, and to Sam, Junie, and Benji on the death of their great grandmother, Lorraine Nierzwicki on November 28 in Milwaukee, WI.

Sarah and Bob Zerfas on the death of Sarah's father, and to Jack Zerfas and Danielle Beville on the death of their grandfather, Frank J. Waldburger on December 22.

NEW ADDRESS

Linda (formerly Cisco) & Victor Andruskevitch, 5008 Timberlane Lane, Gastonia, NC 28056

Jane Baudino, 1006 Primrose Lane, Metamora, IL 61548

Linda Phillips, 1201 E. Cottonwood St., Springfield, IL 62703

Marlene Rinehart, Villas of Hollybrook, 825 E. Walnut St., Apt. 3, Chatham, IL 62629

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Ellen Carpenter, who received a Hard Hat Award from Habitat for Humanity for her work on the Interfaith Relations Council.

Will Hovey, who became an Eagle Scout on December 7, 2023.

Spencer Moore Chipman, who received a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University.

2024 STEWARDSHIP GOAL SURPASSED

As of Thursday, December 21, **we have received 227 pledges totaling \$874,846 which is 103% of the \$850,000 goal.** Thank you to all who pledged and to the 2024 Stewardship Committee: Jay Kennerly, Chair. Susan and Scott Day, Bill Deemer, Jim Dolan, Becky Huston, Becky Martin, Jeanne Pittman, Steve Scaife, Bill Schlosser, and Brad Steller.



NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle
We have received strong support throughout 2023 for the ministry of Westminster! With year-end giving, we expect to finish the year with a positive net balance. At the end of November, income and expenses are each above budgeted amounts. Our net total is \$2,619 income exceeding expenses.

2023 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 982,035	\$ 976,438	\$ 5,597
Expenses	\$- 979,416	\$- 976,438	\$ -2,978
Net Total	\$ 2,618	\$ 0	

2024 BUDGET: In January, we will propose a balanced 2024 Operating Fund Budget totaling \$1,122,850, and a Support and Endowment Budget totaling \$432,500.

PER CAPITA: This year Westminster will pay \$37.25 per member as a part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to support the work of our denomination in the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Your special per capita contribution of \$37.25 for each confirmed member in your household will help to offset this cost in Westminster's budget.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive communion at home on January 14, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Thank you to the three teams of elders and deacons who made visits to seven members on Sunday, December 10.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION will be available on Sunday, January 7 by Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter.



2024 STEADFAST NEIGHBOR INITIATIVE

Westminster continues to invest in our neighborhood through the Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor. In addition to the Matching Grant Program and Service Week (June 17-21) in 2024, the 518 S. Glenwood Home is being renovated for the purpose of placing it on the market.



Proceeds from the sale will reimburse the Support and Endowment loan approved by the congregation in 2018. At the time we purchased the home in 2018, we had not yet formulated the Site and Landscape Plan to expand our parking lot. We no longer have a need for the property and in keeping with our commitment to the neighborhood, improvements need to be made.



During December, a team including Brownie Anderson, Ellen Carpenter, Bud Green, Tim Kluge, Jim McDonough, Tom Owen, Mike Sundquist, and Pete VanGieson worked together to remove the carpet and padding throughout the home and to remove and replace the garage roof. Gary Warnick directed the projects and expressed gratitude for the energy, skill, teamwork, and perseverance of these ministry partners who collaborated with grace reflecting Westminster's flexible and generous spirit.

The Strategic Planning Committee will meet in January to make recommendations for further renovations to the property.

THE ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING BREAKFAST MONDAY, JANUARY 15

The 49th Annual MLK Breakfast will be held Monday, January 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Wyndam Hotel. Westminster will be a Gold Sponsor, donating \$1,500 (\$1,000 from the Endowment Scholarship Fund and \$500 from the Peace and Global Witness collection for local ministry.) It is symbolic and meaningful for us to have a presence at this community celebration, especially in light of our rich history as advocates for racial justice and equality. If you would like to join the pastors and attend, please contact Jennie Alt at jalt@wpcspi.org.



Dr. Wendi Wills El-Amin, the Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, will be the keynote speaker at the breakfast. She earned her medical degree at Georgetown University School of Medicine and a bachelor's degree in biology at Hampton University. Dr. El-Amin is a faculty member in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and provides care at the Center for Family Medicine in Springfield. She also serves on the boards of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Illinois, Springfield YMCA and the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

Church Offices will be closed on January 15
in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday.

Westminster Staff

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff
bkieffer@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Parish Life
cchoi@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
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Mary A. Ray
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Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
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Krista Steller
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Gary Warnick
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**Peter Bysko, James Capler,
Terry Gietl**
Part-time Custodians

Reporter folding and mailing will be on
Wednesday, January 31.